

IN BLUE AND WHITE

the official match magazine of the South Melbourne Soccer Club

FREE

January Edition

Cover Story
South Puts Australia
in International Spotlight

Also Featuring
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South Melbourne?
Special Snapshots from Rio



Round 18 Sydney Olympic, Wednesday, January 26

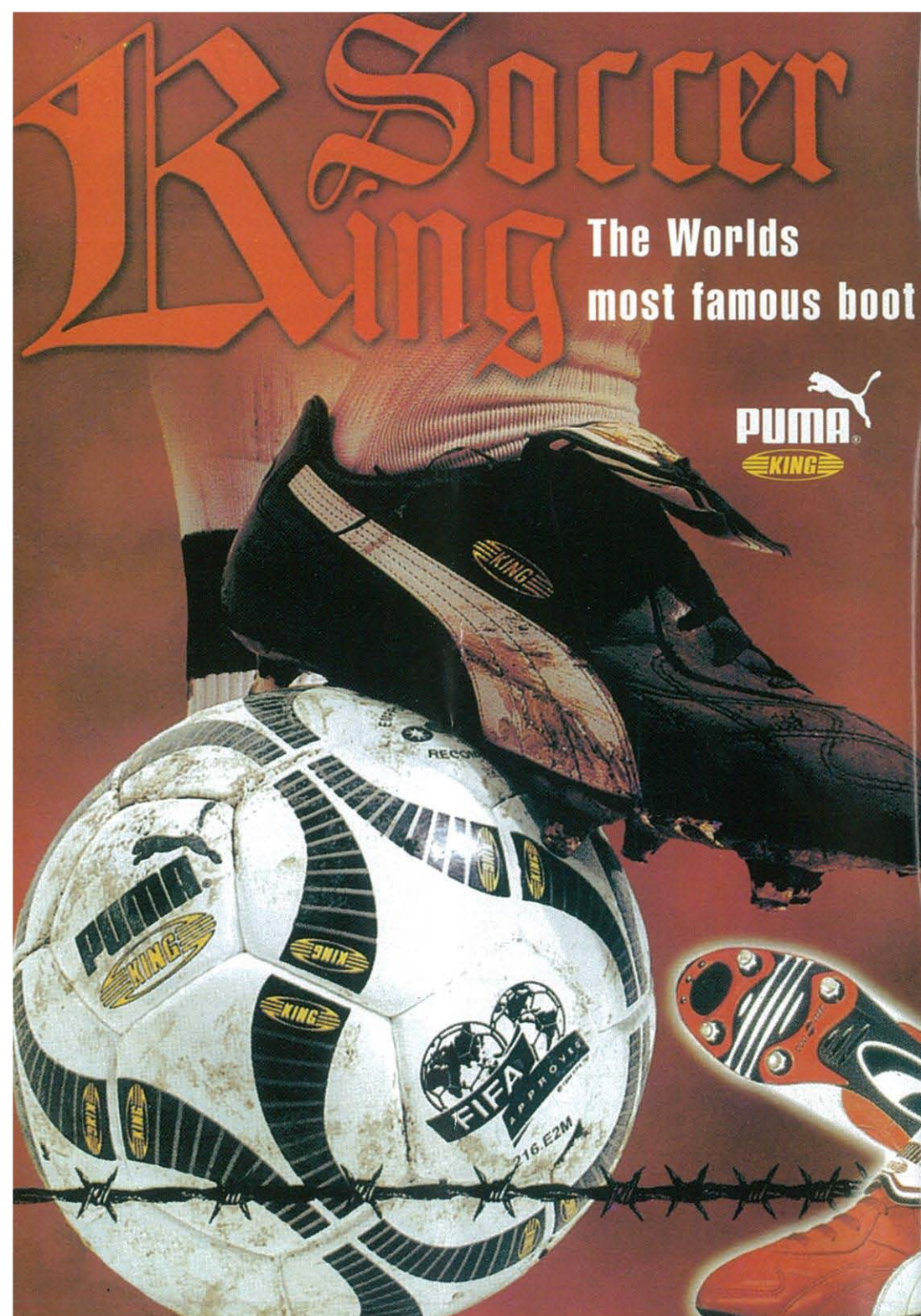
Round 19 Newcastle Breakers, Sunday, January 30



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season 1999-2000



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the January edition of 'In Blue and White'. We have two very difficult home matches against in-form teams Sydney Olympic and Newcastle Breakers to finish off the month. The Club sends a warm welcome to Branko Culina's Sydney Olympic and Lee Steere's Newcastle Breakers.



Well, what an incredible past few weeks in the Club's history. Three matches against the some of the world's best clubs in a championship for the title of Club World Champions.

To have played the way the boys did, especially against a team like Vasco da Gama, with players such as Edmundo, Romario, Juninho and Junior Baiano, and perform so magnificently was a credit to Ange Postecoglou, Carl Halford and the senior players.

The atmosphere at the first game against Vasco da Gama was unbelievable. The noise was something that cannot be easily described, other than if you were there you would understand just how much of a 'buzz' there was in the Maracana Stadium. It was extremely refreshing to sit in the world's most famous grandstand in a soccer mad nation to watch our very own national champions present Australian soccer in a terrific manner.

Our next two matches proved very difficult as well, with the very underrated Necaxa proving a difficult opponent, and Manchester United, whilst not playing their full 'A' team, still put out a team that would beat a number of Premier League sides. Having to play these games with a break of only a day or two in extreme heat, was probably the most difficult feature of the Championship, particularly as we generally play with a five to six-day break in Australia.

The players and officials had the opportunity to meet people such as FIFA President Sepp Blatter, French legend Michel Platini, England striking phenomenon Gary Lineker, Brazilian superstar Zico and Liverpool great Alan Hansen. To have met and played in front of the calibre of people such as these honorary football greats was a real honour and something none of us at the Club will ever forget.

There is no doubt that South Melbourne are the pioneers of the National Soccer League. We have shown to the world, and just importantly to the knockers here in Australia, that the standard of the NSL is of a very good standard and that we are not that far behind the rest of the world.

Aside from having to overcome the jet-lag, it's right back to business for everyone involved at the Club, with the need to address the 2000/2001 Benchmark's Criteria by 31st March, 2000 as a major priority of the Club off the field. With this will come the planning and development for the future of the Club which I have spoken and written about in the publication before.

Having been involved with a tournament like the FIFA Club World Championship has certainly opened the eyes of many of us at the Club, and has given us an even stronger resolve to raise the bar higher again for the Club, both domestically and internationally, so we can continue to remain



"The Most Famous Australian Sporting Club in the World".



With Rio and the World Club Championships now behind us, we can now focus solely on league matters. While delighted with our performances in Brazil, I know the most important thing for us is to try and retain our league title, but with our current league position being fairly mediocre, we need to hit form straight away.

Our next two home games against Sydney Olympic and Newcastle are really 6 pointers because they are two teams we need to catch in order to make the finals. Both these sides have had great seasons so far and will be formidable opponents for us. There's no doubt, however, that we have great belief in our ability to bounce back and once again be in a position to challenge.

On a final note, I'd like to welcome Andy Vlahos to the club and wish him the very best for the rest of the season. He is someone I've admired over the last couple of years and I am excited at the prospect of seeing him in a South Melbourne shirt. I'm sure all South fans will make him feel welcome and show him what a great club he has joined!

Ange Postecoglou
Manager / Coach



Notice

1. Entry inside the perimeter fence of the playing area is prohibited at all times and offenders will be prosecuted.
2. All spectators are requested to vacate the ground within 15 minutes of the final game.
3. Police may be requested to remove any unauthorised persons who remain after the stipulated time.
4. The setting alight of, or the igniting or discharging of any type of object, including fireworks, signal or smoke flares is strictly prohibited.



MEDIA ALERT

For immediate release

SOUTH MELBOURNE SOCCER CLUB - NSL 1999/2000
Date: 20th January 2000

Andy Vlahos returns from Greece to join South charge

Talented midfield star Andy Vlahos signed yesterday with reigning Oceania and back-to-back Australian national soccer league champions South Melbourne on loan until the end of this season.

Vlahos, who enjoyed strong spells at Collingwood Warriors and Carlton, joins South Melbourne from Greek powerhouse side, Panathinaikos.

South Melbourne and Panathinaikos officials have agreed to terms for Vlahos' loan transfer and the player will be registered by Soccer Australia as a South player once his international clearance arrives from the Greek Football Federation.

Back in Australia following limited playing opportunities with the famous 'green-and-whites' in the highly rated Greek first division, Vlahos is excited at the prospect of helping South Melbourne create Australian soccer history by winning a third consecutive league title.

Club coach Ange Postecoglou pounced to sign Vlahos once it became evident the player was eager to return to Australia with South Melbourne.

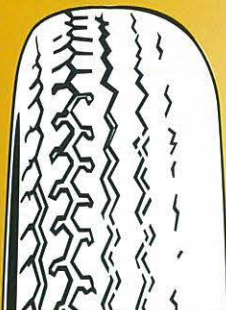
"Obviously we're very pleased to add another quality player to our impressive squad," Postecoglou said.

"He has enjoyed two good years in Australia and now he's got European experience also. We're very happy to have him here."



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South Puts Australia in International Spotlight

The Club World Championships have come and gone and few will doubt the success of the inaugural tournament, but prior to the tournament's commencement many were questioning the capabilities of teams such as South Melbourne to perform against the powers of Vasco Da Gama and Manchester United.

With Australian club soccer's limited exposure to international competition, few knew where the standard of the NSL stood against other club competitions. With the integrity and the future of this tournament resting on the performance of clubs from the less powerful confederations of Asia, Africa and Oceania, even the most senior FIFA officials were a bit nervous of South Melbourne's capabilities.

The first game saw, South American Champions, Vasco Da Gama take on the minnows from "kangaroo country" South Melbourne SC. Already Necaxa, Raja Casablanca and Al Nassr had shown they were more than capable of mixing it with the Europeans and South Americans and it was now the Australian's turn to face the powers of Junior Baiano, Edmundo and Romario in front of a huge passionate and fanatical home crowd.

Even the Manchester United supporters who had stayed back to watch the game felt intimidated by the electrifying atmosphere within the Maracana. With predictions of a one sided affair by the locals as well as back home, it would have been easy for South to crumble under the pressure. But in true Australian spirit, the gladiators from Lakeside were able to push one of the world's best teams to the absolute limit.

The final result read 2-0 in Vasco da Gama's favour, but it took two of the best goals of the tournament to break South Melbourne down and if not for a bit of luck, the score could of quite easily read 1-1 or 0-0.

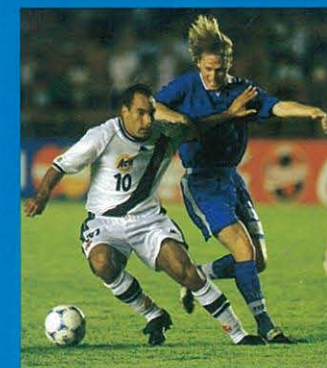
Only two days later, the team had to strut their stuff against the surprise packet of the tournament, Necaxa. Prior to the tournament, many in Australia had seen Necaxa as the team South Melbourne were most likely to get a result from, but the Mexicans had arrived two weeks prior to the tournament's commencement and were well prepared. Coach Raul Arias made it clear that his team had come to Brazil with the intention of making the final and South Melbourne held little fear for his troops.

Necaxa went into the game full of confidence after looking the better side in their 1-1 draw with Manchester United and started the game accordingly. Despite the South Melbourne defence being constantly under pressure, it took a controversial penalty in the 18th minute for Necaxa to open the score, the first of their three penalties for the match.

Although the match ended in a 3-1 loss to South Melbourne, with Necaxa were worthy victors, one will always wonder how this game might have eventuated had the referee been of a higher standard an not been so quick to point to the penalty spot three times.

Despite the setbacks and the slow start to the match, South Melbourne performed admirably, particularly in the second half where an equaliser looked likely until the third penalty sealed the game for Necaxa.

Although many in Australia questioned the strength of the Manchester United team that took the field against South Melbourne, most of these players were either current or



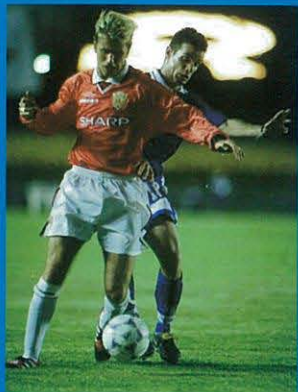
South midfielder David Clarkson
tussles with Vasco's Captain Edmundo



South Melbourne conceded three
penalties in their 3-1 loss to Necaxa



COVER STORY



George Goutzioulou with United winger David Beckham

past members of their respective national teams. With players of the calibre of Cole, Berg, Cryuff, Beckham, Salskjaer, Neville and Fortune in the lineup amongst others, the "part-timers" of South Melbourne had a difficult task ahead of them.

Another slow start to South Melbourne saw the team down 2-0 within 20 minutes of the game's start. Although South had their fair share of the ball, United were looking too quick and solid in most areas of the game. Slowly though, South worked their way back into the game and the more the game went on, the more the players grew in confidence.

The second half was arguably Souths best period of the tournament. Substitutes Coveny and Tsekinis increased the tempo resulting in many scoring opportunities. Coveny was perhaps unlucky to be called offside on two occasions which would have seen him one on one with United goalkeeper Van der Gouw and then came the incident South Melbourne supporters will be talking about for many a year. A chip by Coveny in the 75th minute hit the left-hand post, rolled along the line, and then hit the other post, before rolling back into play where the United defence cleared the ball.

By the time Curcija missed a good opportunity late in the game, South Melbourne had well and truly earned the respect of everyone in the stadium and most importantly in Australia.

The fact that South Melbourne played a clean brand of football, receiving few yellow cards, is credit in itself. It would have been quite easy for South Melbourne to use kicking and dirty tactics as a means of restricting their opponents, much like the way Frank Arok use to do with the Socceroos in the 80's. Instead, Ange Postecoglou had his charges playing an attractive skilful brand of soccer, the type of football South Melbourne has been famous for and proud of throughout its history.



Some of the 200 loyal South fans who watched the Manchester United game on the big screen at Bob Jane Stadium

What this showed to the world was that Australians CAN play soccer and that the NSL isn't the league of no hopers that even Australian soccer fans thought it was. Sure there is still a big difference between the top leagues in the world and the NSL, but we now know the gap isn't as big as we once thought. Going into round 17 of the season, South Melbourne is tenth on the NSL table, yet they were able to push the European, North American and South American Champions to the limit and can count themselves unlucky not to have gotten at least one result.

One of the main reasons the Club World Championships will continue is due to the success of South Melbourne SC. FIFA President, Mr Joseph Blatter, stated, "When you see, as we have here, a club like South Melbourne manage to hold their own

against teams like Manchester United and Vasco da Gama, you are left in no doubt about the tournament's credibility in the sporting sense".

There will be other Club World Championships and perhaps other Australian clubs will do even better than South Melbourne. History will show, however, that South Melbourne Soccer Club was the club that helped make these championships a success, which in the process also gave Australian soccer and the NSL the credibility it has waited 23 years to receive.

Congratulations to all the players and coaching staff of South Melbourne SC, you did Australia proud.



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TRIVIA QUESTIONS (direct from Rio)

1. Which player was sent off in the opening group B Match?
2. Which team won the FIFA fair play award for the tournament?
3. From which country was Falla Ndoye, the referee of the South Melbourne versus Necaxa game?
4. Which South Melbourne player was awarded the free kick that lead to South's only goal of the tournament?
5. Which Necaxa player missed a penalty against South Melbourne?
6. Who was voted best player of the tournament?
7. Name one of the two equal top scorers.
8. Which three players come on off the bench for South Melbourne against Manchester United?
9. What was the final score of the 3rd place play off between Real Madrid and Necaxa?
10. What was the final score between Necaxa and Vasco da Gama?

KARTSI DOES RIO



Football fans from all over the world converged on Brazil for the inaugural Club World Championship and Kartsu was one of the few lucky South Melbourne supporters to make his way to Rio De Janeiro for the historical event.

Rio de Janeiro is a beautiful city surrounded by exquisite beaches and mountainous hills. From my short stay in Rio, it seemed there are two forms of people, the rich, who live in lavish houses and apartments and the very poor, who live in the favelas (shanty towns). Despite the drastic difference in living standards of the two classes of society, Brazilians are united in the beliefs of two religions, Catholicism and Football.

Almost everyone doubted the quality of South Melbourne prior to the game against Vasco, but by the end of the game, everyone who was watching suddenly had a new found respect for Australian football. Although the players felt disappointed in losing the game, they could hold their heads up high. Not many teams would have done as well as South Melbourne that day. The fact that Manchester United were down 3-0 at half time against Vasco two days later further indicates how well the Lakesiders had performed.

The English tabloid, 'The Mirror' had a field day ridiculing Manchester United for apparently "wrecking the FA Cup" to play in "this absurd tournament". The fact that Manchester United were playing "the most meaningless football match in history" against an unknown team from Australia, only gave The Mirror more ammunition. If The Mirror thought it was a meaningless game and an absurd tournament, somebody forgot to tell the Manchester United supporters. They had come to Rio in thousands, each of whom were quite happy that Manchester United took part in the tournament. For some reason, many of them took South Melbourne to their heart and were amazed at the standard of Australian football.

One fan said to me, "I didn't even know they had football in Australia, but you guys played great, I'm amazed!"

Despite Manchester United's poor performance in the championship, it seemed that no Englishman in Brazil had any qualms about the tournament, least of all about South Melbourne SC. That is all Englishmen but Oliver Holt from The Mirror, who felt compelled to ridicule Manchester United by attempting to defame their lesser known opponents from Australia. The methods used by this journalist were nothing short of shameful and although the likelihood of Mr Holt ever reading this article being remote, I do have this to say.

Manchester United may have pulled out of the FA Cup to play against South Melbourne SC, a team with a "petrol pump attendant, tax adviser and a hospital worker", but South Melbourne performed better against Manchester United than most English teams would have in the FA Cup.

As Australians and as South Melbourne supporters, we should all be proud of our teams exploits in Brazil. This tournament has given South Melbourne it's greatest ever opportunity to grow, and quite simply, it is now Australia's most famous sporting club.



Note: Answers to Trivia Questions on page 30

NSL TABLE After Round 17

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	AVE	PTS
Sydney Olympic	17	10	3	4	32	16	+16	33
Wollongong Wolves	17	9	5	3	33	24	+9	32
Carlton SC	16	8	5	3	30	17	+13	29
Perth Glory	16	8	5	3	30	18	+12	29
Newcastle Breakers	16	8	5	3	23	19	+4	29
Brisbane Strikers	17	8	4	5	26	16	+10	28
Marconi Stallions	16	8	2	6	22	21	+1	26
Auckland Kingz	15	5	5	5	26	27	-1	20
Northern Spirit	17	6	2	9	16	23	-7	20
Gippsland Falcons	17	5	5	7	12	20	-8	20
Parramatta Power	15	5	3	7	27	26	+1	18
Adelaide City Force	17	4	6	7	16	19	-3	18
SOUTH MELBOURNE	15	5	3	7	22	27	-5	18
Canberra Cosmos	17	4	3	10	21	32	-11	15
Melbourne Knights	17	4	3	10	16	33	-17	15
Sydney United	17	3	3	11	10	24	-14	12

ROUND 18 MATCHES

Wednesday, 26 January

Northern Spirit vs Carlton
Adelaide City vs Newcastle Breakers
Gippsland Falcons vs Parramatta Power
Marconi Stallions vs Brisbane Strikers
Canberra Cosmos vs Melbourne Knights
Sydney United vs Wollongong Wolves
South Melbourne vs Sydney Olympic

ROUND 19 MATCHES

Friday, 28 January

Canberra Cosmos vs Gippsland Falcons

Saturday, 29 January

Parramatta Power vs Northern Spirit
Brisbane Strikers vs Auckland Kingz
Carlton vs Sydney Olympic

Sunday, 30 January

Perth Glory vs Wollongong Wolves
Sydney United vs Melbourne Knights
Adelaide City vs Marconi Stallions
South Melbourne vs Newcastle Breakers

LEADING GOALSCORERS

- 11 Paul Foster (Brisbane Strikers)
- 9 Con Boutsianis (Perth Glory)
- 9 Pablo Cardozo (Sydney Olympic)
- 9 Michael Curcija (South Melbourne)
- 9 Alex Moreira (Carlton)
- 9 Sasho Petrovski (Wollongong Wolves)



SOUTH MELBOURNE S.C.

1999/2000 PLAYER PROFILES



PAUL TRIMBOLI
Position: Striker
Born: 25.2.69
Height: 173 cm
Weight: 72 kg
NSL games: 345
NSL goals: 96
Last club: Sunshine GC
Nickname: Trimmers
Shirt number: 9



DAVID CLARKSON
Position: Midfielder
Born: 1.2.68
Height: 176 cm
Weight: 70 kg
NSL games: 158
NSL goals: 13
Last club: Happy Valley (HK)
Nickname: Clarky
Shirt number: 6



GORAN LOZANOVSKI
Position: Midfielder
Born: 11.1.74
Height: 180 cm
Weight: 88 kg
NSL games: 160
NSL goals: 17
Last club: Collingwood
Nickname: Loza
Shirt number: 15



ANTHONY MAGNACCA
Position: Striker
Born: 9.4.78
Height: 176 cm
Weight: 72 kg
NSL games: 21
NSL goals: 3
Last club: Canberra
Nickname: Mags
Shirt number: 14



STEVE PANOPOULOS
Position: Midfielder
Born: 23.6.75
Height: 169 cm
Weight: 68 kg
NSL games: 127
NSL goals: 19
Last club: Oakleigh (V/S)
Nickname: Pana
Shirt number: 7



FAUSTO DE AMICIS
Position: Defender
Born: 26.6.68
Height: 170 cm
Weight: 65 kg
NSL games: 201
NSL goals: 4
Last club: Melbourne Knights
Nickname:
Shirt number: 3



CHRIS JONES
Position: Goalkeeper
Born: 10.7.75
Height: 188 cm
Weight: 88 kg
NSL games: 1
NSL goals: 0
Last club: Karingal United
Nickname: Jonesy
Shirt number: 20



RICHIE ALAGICH
Position: Midfielder
Born: 30.10.73
Height: 178 cm
Weight: 74 kg
NSL games: 117
NSL goals: 4
Last club: Adelaide Sharks
Nickname: Gich
Shirt number: 12



VAUGHAN COVENY
Position: Striker
Born: 13.12.71
Height: 188 cm
Weight: 84 kg
NSL games: 179
NSL goals: 55
Last club: Wollongong
Nickname: Kiwi
Shirt number: 8



STEVE IOSIFIDIS
Position: Defender
Born: 28.12.73
Height: 184 cm
Weight: 75 kg
NSL games: 88
NSL goals: 0
Last club: Heidelberg UTD
Nickname: Yosa
Shirt number: 2



JIM TSEKINIS
Position: Striker
Born: 8.5.75
Height: 177 cm
Weight: 77 kg
NSL games: 140
NSL goals: 28
Last club: Adelaide Sharks
Nickname: Jimmo
Shirt number: 17



MILAN UDVARACZ
Position: Goalkeeper
Born: 9.12.67
Height: 190 cm
Weight: 90 kg
NSL games: 0
NSL goals: 0
Last club: Ferencvaros (Hungary)
Nickname:
Shirt number: 1



CON BLATSIS
Position: Defender
Born: 6.7.77
Height: 192 cm
Weight: 86 kg
NSL games: 71
NSL goals: 5
Last club: AIS
Nickname: Blats
Shirt number: 5



ROBERT LIPAROTI
Position: Defender
Born: 2.4.78
Height: 193 cm
Weight: 89 kg
NSL games: 24
NSL goals: 0
Last club: Bulleen
Nickname: Lipa
Shirt number: 18



MUSTAFA MUSTAFA
Position: Striker
Born: 22.8.79
Height: 178 cm
Weight: 69 kg
NSL games: 6
NSL goals: 0
Last club: Melton Reds (V/S)
Nickname: Mus
Shirt number: 22



RADE CULIBRK
Position: Defender
Born: 19.7.82
Height: 175 cm
Weight: 72 kg
Last club: Springvale
Nickname: Culi
Shirt number: 21



MICHAEL CURCIJA
Position: Striker
Born: 27.6.77
Height: 183 cm
Weight: 80 kg
NSL games: 91
NSL goals: 29
Last club: AIS
Nickname: Cij
Shirt number: 10



GEORGE GOUTZIOULIS
Position: Midfielder
Born: 18.1.78
Height: 180 cm
Weight: 74 kg
NSL games: 43
NSL goals: 2
Last club: Bentleigh Greens
Nickname: Shaggy
Shirt number: 16



ADRIAN CUZZUPE
Position: Midfielder
Born: 6.8.80
Height: 178 cm
Weight: 72 kg
NSL games: 7
NSL goals: 0
Last club: Green Gully
Nickname:
Shirt number: 13



ANDY VLAHOS
Position: Midfielder / Striker
Born: 20.4.76
Height: 171 cm
Weight: 70 kg
Last club: Panathinaikos (Greece)
Nickname:
Shirt number: 24



NICK ORLIC
Position: Defender
Born: 6.8.70
Height: 191 cm
Weight: 90 kg
NSL games: 148
NSL goals: 13
Last club: UTS Olympic
Nickname: Niko
Shirt number: 4



JOHN ANASTASIADIS
Position: Striker
Born: 13.8.68
Height: 179 cm
Weight: 78 kg
NSL games: 74
NSL goals: 17
Last club: PAOK (Greece)
Nickname:
Shirt number: 11



TAS PSONIS
Position: Midfielder
Born: 16.4.81
Height: 181 cm
Weight: 81 kg
NSL games: 0
NSL goals: 0
Last club: Oakleigh
Nickname:
Shirt number: 19



ANGE POSTEOGLOU
Manager / Coach
Born: 27.8.65
Playing Career: 1984-1993
NSL games: 192
NSL goals: 19
Honours: 1984 - NSL Championship
1991 - NSL Championship



SOUTH MELBOURNE SOCCER CLUB

Snapshots from Rio

The Black and White Army of Vasco da Gama



Jan 2

The team at Melbourne Airport in their swish Nazario Parisi attire.



Jan 7

Chris Jones watches in despair as Edmundo seals a 2-0 victory for Vasco



Jan 7

Paul Trimboli heads the team onto the Maracana pitch for the historic clash against Manchester United



Jan 12



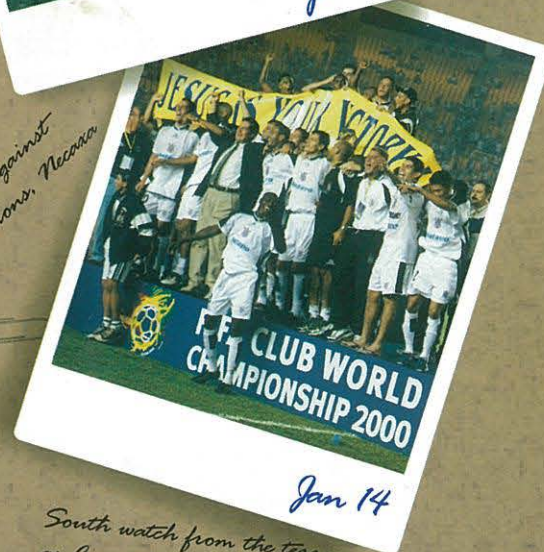
Jan 6

South Melbourne conduct their very own training session on the World famous Maracana Stadium



Jan 9

The starting eleven against Mexican Champions, Necaxa



Jan 14

South watch from the terraces as Corinthians become the inaugural FIFA Club World Champions

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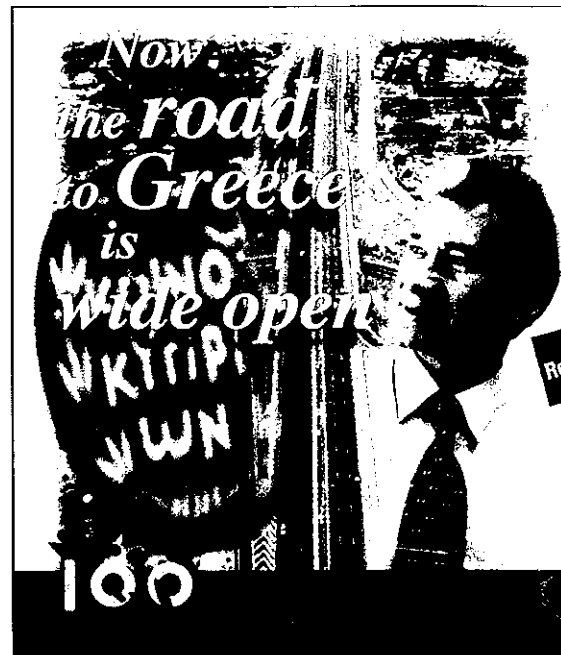
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SEASON FIXTURE AND SMSC LINE-UP

SOUTH MELBOURNE LINE-UP

1. Milan Udvaracz GK
2. Steve Iosifidis
3. Fausto de Amicis
4. Nick Orlic
5. Con Blatsis
6. David Clarkson
7. Steve Panopoulos
8. Vaughan Coveny
9. Paul Trimboli
10. Michael Curcija
11. John Anastasiadis
12. Richie Alagich
13. Adrian Cuzzupe
14. Anthony Magnacca
15. Goran Lozanovski
16. George Goutzioulis
17. Jim Tsekinis
18. Robert Liparoti
19. Tas Psonis
20. Chris Jones GK
21. Rade Culibrk
22. Mustafa Mustafa
24. Andy Vlahos
- Coach: Ange Postecoglou
- Assistant Coach: Carl Halford

1999/2000 Season Fixture

1	Sunday, Oct 3	Wollongong	Lost 2-1 (Magnacca)
2	Sunday, Oct 10	Northern Spirit	Won 2-0 (Curcija 2)
3	Sunday, Oct 17	Auckland Kings	Lost 1-0
4	Sunday, Oct 24	Gippsland Falcons	Won 3-0 (Curcija 2, Blatsis)
5	Sunday, Oct 31	Marconi	Lost 2-0
6	Sunday, Nov 7	Melbourne Knights	Won 3-0 (Anastasiadis, Coveny 2)
7	Friday, Nov 12	Adelaide Force	Draw 1-1 (Anastasiadis)
8	Sunday, Nov 21	Canberra Cosmos	Draw 2-2 (Anastasiadis, Lozanovski)
9	Saturday, Nov 27	Brisbane Strikers	Lost 5-1 (Curcija)
10	Sunday, Dec 5	Parramatta Power	Won 4-2 (Panopoulos, Anastasiadis, Curcija, Coveny)
11	Sunday, Dec 12	Perth Glory	Lost 2-1 (Curcija)
12	Sunday, Dec 19	Carlton	Lost 2-1 (Curcija)
D15	Thursday, Dec 23	Wollongong	Draw 1-1 (Curcija)
13	Tuesday, Dec 28	Sydney United	Won 2-0 (Curcija, Coveny)
17	Sunday, Jan 23	Sydney Olympic	Lost 6-0
18	Wednesday, Jan 26	Sydney Olympic	BOB JANE - 6.00 pm
19	Sunday, Jan 30	Newcastle	BOB JANE - 6.00 pm
D16	Wednesday, Feb 2	Newcastle	Breakers Stadium - 7.30 pm
20	Friday, Feb 4	Northern Spirit	North Sydney - 7.30 pm
21	Sunday, Feb 13	Auckland Kings	BOB JANE - 6.00 pm
22	Saturday, Feb 19	Gippsland Falcons	Falcons Park - 7.00 pm
23	Sunday, Feb 27	Marconi	BOB JANE - 6.00 pm
D14	Wednesday, Mar 1	Carlton	BOB JANE - 7.30 pm
24	Sunday, March 5	Melbourne Knights	Knights Stadium - 6.00 pm
26	Friday, March 19	Canberra Cosmos	Bruce Stadium - 7.30 pm
27	Sunday, March 26	Brisbane Strikers	BOB JANE - 6.00 pm
28	Friday, March 31	Parramatta Power	Parramatta - 7.30 pm
D25	Wednesday, April 5	Adelaide Force	BOB JANE - TBA
29	Sunday, April 9	Perth Glory	BOB JANE - 6.00 pm
30	Friday, April 14	Carlton	Olympic Park - 7.30 pm
31	Saturday, Apr 22	Sydney United	BOB JANE - 6.00 pm
32	Tuesday, April 25	Carlton	Olympic Park - 7.30 pm
33	Friday, April 28	Newcastle	Breakers Stadium - 7.30 pm
34	Sunday, May 7	Newcastle	BOB JANE - 6.00 pm



CLOSE TO HOME

The youth are our future. That's to say in any industry, but in the sport of soccer, especially in Australia, it seems to be a certainty. With more children playing soccer throughout the country than any other sport, the potential for our sport to grow is better than ever. And what better place to start than at grass root levels.

South Melbourne recently saw this potential to market the game to the youth audience, and decided to hold a School Super Soccer Clinic.

On Wednesday 8th December, 1999, after more than 150 Victorian schools were invited to join the clinic, over 400 students from various schools made their way down to Bob Jane Stadium, for a day of learning and fun.

With 8 senior players in attendance, the team was headed by South Melbourne Development Officer, David Clarkson, and coordinated by the Administration staff with assistance from the South Melbourne Supporters Group.

The children were split into four groups of 100 kids. Two of those groups spent their 1st half of the day out on the park with the players, who conducted a great mixture of skills, drills and games. In the meantime, the other two groups spent their morning in the social club watching South videos, answering questions, listening to a talk from a senior player and last but not least, entering a commentating competition. The day was finished off with a tour of the stadium including the South Melbourne Museum, the players dressing rooms, the PA Room and the Corporate Boxes, as well as posing for an individual school photo session with the players.

After some fantastic feedback from the schools and an overwhelming response to attend the clinic, the club has decided to make the Super Clinic a regular event throughout each year. Coupled with the work that David Clarkson already undertakes with schools throughout Victoria, the future for South Melbourne Soccer Club and soccer in general looks extremely bright, as these will be the kids who will follow our beloved sport or perhaps become future stars. These children are the future of Australian soccer.



By Helen Dimitrakakis



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MASCOT OF THE DAY

The Trimmers Club 'Mascot of the Day' has been very popular since its commencement at the start of the season. Several lucky Trimmers Club members have already enjoyed being mascot and there's still plenty of South Melbourne matches for other children to get their chance. If you're Under 12, and not already a Trimmers Club Member, it's not too late! Join NOW and enjoy all the special benefits!



Above: 3 year old Trimmers Club Member
GIAN TAPIA of Coburg was the lucky
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JOHNNIE WALKER PLAYER VOTES

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VOTES	PLAYER
14	Steve PANOPOULOS
10	Steve IOSIFIDIS
9	John ANASTASIADIS Con BLATSIS
6	David CLARKSON Nick ORLIC Chris JONES
5	Michael CURCIJA
4	Goran LOZANOVSKI
3	Fausto DE AMICIS Robert LIPAROTI Jim TSEKINIS
2	Anthony MAGNACCA Paul TRIMBOLI
1	Vaughan COVENY George GOUTZIOULIS



Before the commencement of each season, the South Melbourne Soccer Club holds its annual Season Launch & Player Guernsey Night. Amongst other things, the night involves the auctioning of players, in which each successful bidder receives a signed playing guernsey from his sponsored player, as well as gaining the services of that same player for the Johnnie Walker Player Award. When a player receives votes, his sponsor receives a bottle of Johnnie Walker (3 votes=black; 2 votes=red; 1 vote=small red). Held in conjunction with United Distillers, the Johnnie Walker Player Award is a popular competition amongst the players and their sponsors. Now you, the fan, can grab an insight into the match and progressive player votes during the course of the 1999/2000 NSL season.

The South Melbourne Soccer Club is extremely pleased this competition is expanding in popularity and expresses its gratitude to United Distillers and Johnnie Walker Scotch Whisky for its continued support. It must be noted that these votes are not awarded by referees, Soccer Australia officials or coach Ange Postecoglou, but by South Melbourne Soccer Club staff. We will keep you updated on the progress of the Johnnie Walker Player Award

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OUR VISITORS - SYDNEY OLYMPIC



SMSC v Sydney Olympic

Wednesday, January 26, 2000 6.00pm

Today, we welcome Branko Culina and Sydney Olympic to Bob Jane Stadium. Olympic finished in seventh place last season, two points outside the top six. While most observers expected they would again be challenging for a position in the finals, few believed they would make such an impressive start to the season. Coach Culina is well-known to Victorian soccer, having played for the Knights, and Victoria, interspersed with spells at Sydney United, Blacktown and St Albans. After coaching St Albans, North Geelong and Melbourne Knights, Culina took over at Sydney United in 1994. In 1996/97, he was voted coach of the year after leading Sydney United to the Grand Final, which they eventually lost to Brisbane Strikers. After a short spell at Canberra, Culina was appointed coach of Sydney Olympic.

Last season's relative failure inevitably led to many departures and some high profile arrivals at Belmore. Striker Zlatko Arambasic has returned from Mechelen after several years in Europe that included spells at FC Metz and NAC Breda. Englishman Marcus Phillips has arrived from Marconi, Young Socceroo left wing-back Lindsay Wilson from Canberra, skillful midfielder Gabriel "Chi Chi" Mendez from Northern Spirit and New Zealand international captain Chris Zoricich from the Brisbane Strikers, who once had a spell at Leyton Orient. Milan Blagojevic has departed for Parramatta Power, Carlos Gonzalez is now at Spanish club DC Ourense, long-serving defender George Sorras has retired and Elias Augerinos and Kimon Taliadoros have been released. All this transfer activity has given Culina a strong and experienced squad captained by former young Socceroo, Peter Tsekenis.

Olympic possesses great attacking ability. As well as the players mentioned earlier, their squad also includes 32-year-old Chris Kalantzis, who spent time in Greece playing for Olympiakos and Panathinaikos, and Olyroo winger Brett Emerton, although the undoubted star of the side is prolific striker Pablo Cardozo. The Buenos Aires-born former Canterbury, Rapid Vienna and Adelaide Sharks star was the NSL equal second top scorer at the Sharks in 1997/98 with 13 goals but eclipsed that by scoring 18 goals last season and finishing top goal scorer in the NSL. Inevitably, Cardozo has been linked with European clubs, but fortunately for Olympic, a proposed move to Spanish second division club, Cordoba has been put on hold for now. Olympic haven't made the finals since 1995/96 but if their fine form continues, Olympic are a realistic chance of adding to their sole championship victory of 1990.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC LINE-UP

1. Jim Kourtis GK
2. Scott Thomas
3. Chris Zoricich
4. Peter Tsekenis
5. Scott Baillie
6. Ante Juric
7. Zlatko Arambasic
8. Marcus Phillips
9. Pablo Cardozo
10. Brett Emerton
11. Chris Kalantzis
12. Sebastian Sinozic
14. Gabriel Mendez
15. Lindsay Wilson
17. Paul Kohler
18. John Kyriazopoulos
19. Nick Carle
20. George Bouhoutsos GK
21. Lee Miot
22. Peter Zorbas
23. Dylan Macallister
24. Norman Tome
25. Hussein Jomaa
26. Adam Ciantar
30. John Karoubas

Coach: Branko Culina

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OUR VISITORS - NEWCASTLE



BREAKERS LINE-UP

1. Bob Catlin GK
2. Shane Pryce
3. Andrew Roberts
4. Adam Sanderson
5. Todd McManus
6. Glenn Sprod
7. Travis Dodd
8. Mark Wilson
9. Chris Tancheski
10. John Buonavoglia
11. Luke Tomich
12. Robert Angievski
13. Brad Wieczorek
14. Greg Owens
15. Joshua Ferguson
16. Vasko Trpceviski
17. Paul Wheeler
18. Andrew Harper
19. Chad Mansley
20. Bradley Swancott GK
21. Peter Juchniewicz
22. Glenn Moore
23. Damien Smith

Coach: Lee Sterrey

SMSC v Newcastle Breakers

Sunday, January 30, 2000 6.00pm

Today, we welcome Lee Sterrey and his Newcastle Breakers to Bob Jane Stadium. Since re-joining the NSL in 1995/96, the Breakers have, on the occasion, threatened to make the leap into the top six. An eighth-place finish in 1998/99, five points from sixth place, was a credible result but Newcastle have proven themselves a real finals contender this season. An excellent 3-2 win at North Sydney Oval over Northern Spirit early in the season made critics sit up and take the Breakers seriously, highlighting the tactical astuteness of coach Sterrey.

Sterrey has deservedly been given an opportunity to coach in the National Soccer League by the Breakers and they have been rewarded for their foresight. Once his playing career was over, he joined Marconi and was a successful youth coach. He was assistant coach to Zoran Matic but left Bossley Park when Frank Farina was appointed so that he could further his own coaching career.

Not content with last season's solid performance, Sterrey has introduced several new faces to the squad. Putting his faith in local talent, Scottish-born Robert Shannon, South Korean Sang Chul Yoon and Moroccan Fouad Umlil have been released while four young players have been promoted from the club's juniors. In addition, defender Travis Dodd (Adelaide Force), midfielder Vasko Trpceviski (Perth Glory), Luke Tomich (Marconi) and Andy Harper (Brisbane Strikers) have been recruited. The veteran Harper represented Australia at Under 20 level and has previously played for Sydney City, Sydney Olympic, St George, Marconi, Brisbane and Matsunichi (China). The club's most impressive young talent is Naples-born striker John Buonavoglia. He played his junior soccer with Apia Leichardt and Sydney Olympic and had spells at St George and Leichardt Tigers before being spotted by Newcastle. The 24-year-old was joint winner of the New South Wales super league best & fairest last year. Small in stature, his electrifying turn of pace and deceptive strength on the ball make him one of the league's most dangerous attackers.

At home, the Breakers have scored impressive 3-2 wins over title contenders Perth Glory and Sydney Olympic in recent weeks. Away from Breakers Stadium, Newcastle have played a highly effective counter-attacking game capably led by sweeper Shane Pryce and utilising Buonavoglia's speed. It has brought them draws at Carlton, Olympic, Parramatta Power and a win at North Sydney against Northern Spirit.

Keeper Bob Catlin recently made his 300th NSL appearance (only the second goalkeeper to do so) against one of his former clubs, Sydney Olympic. Catlin started his NSL career in 1984 at Apia Leichardt and has enjoyed spells at Marconi, Notts County and Olympic before joining the Breakers. Newcastle's recent victory over league leader Sydney Olympic was their eighth successive game without defeat - a club record.

IN BLUE AND WHITE

YOUTH TEAM REPORT

SOUTH MELBOURNE YOUTH TEAM

1. Grant Wallace
2. Patrick Kosnorbo
3. Iain Callaghan
4. Laurent Honore
5. Theo Petidis
6. Jim Archimandritis
7. Adam Poole
8. Shane DiGioacchino
9. Jovanco Novacevski
10. Andrew Mashoian
11. Boris Orcin
12. Paul Stillitano
13. Gareth Robbins
14. Scott Hynds
15. Sebastian Petrovich
16. Wayne Spiteri

Coach: John Kennedy

Assistant Coach: Rino DiGioacchino

Managers: George Katsamboukas

David Poole



The results of the South Melbourne Youth Team during the last month have been less than favourable to say the least. With the return of the senior squad from their successful trip to Brazil, however, the team should be strengthened with the return of young guns such as Psonis, Mustafa and Cuzzupe for the rest of the season.

Round 7: South Melbourne defeated Preston 3-1. South dominated the entire game and could have easily won 10-1, had it not been for the fine performance of the Preston Goalkeeper.

Round 8: South were defeated by Bulleen 2-1. Andrew Mashoian opened the scoring for South, but Bulleen equalised right on half time. Bulleen then scored the winner midway into the second half.

Round 9: South Melbourne failed to capitalise on the numerous chances it had during the game, and South Dandenong punished them with a goal late in the first half. South Dandenong then defended stoutly for a 1-0 victory in a game which should have seen South Melbourne comfortable winners had they have converted their many chances.

Round 10: South's poor form continued against Fawkner when they once again went down 1-0. South's failure to capitalise on their chance (including a missed penalty) cost it the 3 points and a third successive defeat.

The squad has been training hard in the hope of atoning for these losses as well as beginning a surge in the run home to the Southern Division finals.

The South Melbourne Youth Team will have a hectic schedule with the team also participating in the Hellenic Cup. The tournament is being held at Jack Edwards Reserve in Oakleigh, and will be in addition to their normal league commitments.

Saturday 22 nd January	NYL - ROUND 11 Kick-off: 4:00pm	South Dandenong vs South Melbourne George Andrews Reserve, Dandenong
Monday 24 th January	HELLENIC CUP Kick Off: 6:30pm	South Melbourne vs Caulfield United Jack Edwards Reserve, Oakleigh
Sunday 30 th January	NYL - ROUND 12 Kick Off: 3:30pm	South Melbourne vs VIS Bob Jane Stadium, Albert Park
Tuesday 1 st January	HELLENIC CUP Kick Off: 6:30pm	South Melbourne vs South Caulfield Jack Edwards Reserve, Oakleigh
Thursday 3 rd January	HELLENIC CUP Kick Off: 6:30pm	South Melbourne vs Mill Park Jack Edwards Reserve, Oakleigh
Saturday	HELLENIC CUP Kick Off: 5:00pm	South Melbourne vs Western Suburbs Jack Edwards Reserve, Oakleigh

Answers to Trivia Question on Page 13

1. David Beckham 2. Al-Nassr 3. Senegal 4. Steve Iosifidis 5. Christian Montecinos 6. Edison (Corinthians) 7. Anelka (Real Madrid) and Romario (Vasco da Gama) 8. Goutzoulis, Tsakinis and Coveny 9. Necaxa 1 v Real Madrid 1 (Necaxa won 4-3 on penalties) 10. Vasco da Gama 2 defeated Necaxa 1

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